

# WOMEN IN THE ARMY



# OVERVIEW

**STATUS OF WOMEN DURING WW I,  
WW II, VIETNAM AND POST  
VIETNAM ERA**

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**LAWS GOVERNING  
WOMEN IN THE  
MILITARY**

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**STATUS OF WOMEN DURING WW I,  
WW II, VIETNAM AND POST  
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**LAWS GOVERNING  
WOMEN IN THE  
MILITARY**

**CONTEMPORARY  
ISSUES**

# **STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE ARMY DURING WW I**

**CIVILIAN  
WOMEN  
AS  
EMPLOYEES**



# **STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE ARMY DURING WW I**

**CIVILIAN  
WOMEN  
AS  
EMPLOYEES**

**RESTRICTED  
ENLISTMENT  
TO MEN**

# **STATUS OF WOMEN**

## **DURING WW1**

**(CONT)**

**Even though Army nurses received many decorations from the U.S. and Allies for courageous service, at war's end, demobilization of women was THE RULE.**



# World War

II

**" FREE A MAN TO FIGHT " SLOGAN**



# World War II

**" FREE A MAN TO FIGHT " SLOGAN**

**MAY**

**1942**

**WOMEN'S ARMY AUXILIARY CORPS  
(WAAC)**

# World War II

**“ FREE A MAN TO FIGHT ” SLOGAN**

**MAY**

**1942**

**WOMEN'S ARMY AUXILIARY CORPS  
(WAAC)**

**JULY**

**1943**

**WOMEN ACCEPTED FOR VOLUNTEER  
EMERGENCY SERVICES (WAVES)**

# World War

II

**ARMY & NAVY  
NURSE CORPS  
EXPANDED**

# World War II

(cont)

**ARMY & NAVY  
NURSE CORPS  
EXPANDED**

**WASP**

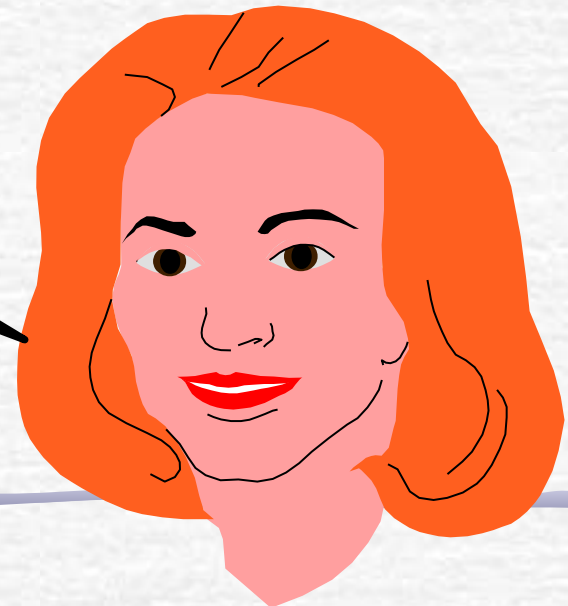
**WOMEN AIR SERVICE  
PILOTS(AUG 1943)**

# World War

II

(cont)

**BLACK WOMEN  
AFFECTED SEVERELY  
BY SEGREGATION**



# World War II

(cont)

A circular diagram composed of six distinct, colored segments arranged in a ring. Starting from the top-left and moving clockwise, the colors are red, orange, grey, magenta, blue, and green. Each segment is outlined in black. The text "UNITS SEGREGATED BY COLOR" is centered within the circle.

**UNITS  
SEGREGATED  
BY COLOR**



# World War II

(cont)





# **World War II**

## **(cont)**

**□ Small number of Chinese-American, Japanese-American, and Native American women enlisted in the WAAC and assigned to White WAAC units**

# **World War II**

## **(cont)**

- ☐ **Puerto Rican women were enlisted, trained, and assigned as a separate unit mainly because of language difficulties**

# WORLD WAR II

(CONT)

**"Yet, through all the fighting, women served in a reserve status. They were still just a temporary part of the military."**

**Albert Spear, 1975**

# **WORLD WAR**

**II**

(CONT)

**WOMEN SERVED IN A RESERVE STATUS**

# **WORLD WAR**

**II**

(CONT)

**WOMEN SERVED IN A RESERVE STATUS**

**WOMEN WERE A TEMPORARY PART  
OF THE MILITARY**

# **WORLD WAR**

**II**

(CONT)

**WOMEN SERVED IN A RESERVE STATUS**

**WOMEN WERE A TEMPORARY PART  
OF THE MILITARY**

**WOMEN WERE TEMPORARY  
HELPERS ONLY**



**VIETNAM**

**WAR**



**LARGEST GROUP OF WOMEN  
SERVED**





**VIETNAM**

**WAR**



**LARGEST GROUP OF WOMEN  
SERVED**



**SERVICED  
18 HOSPITALS  
9 DISPENSARIES  
VARIOUS NAVAL  
HOSPITAL SHIPS**



# **VIETNAM**



**LARGEST GROUP OF WOMEN  
SERVED**



**SERVICED  
18 HOSPITALS  
9 DISPENSARIES  
VARIOUS NAVAL  
HOSPITAL SHIPS**



**33,000 SERVED  
STILL UNDER 2%  
CEILING**

# VIETNAM WAR

(CONT)

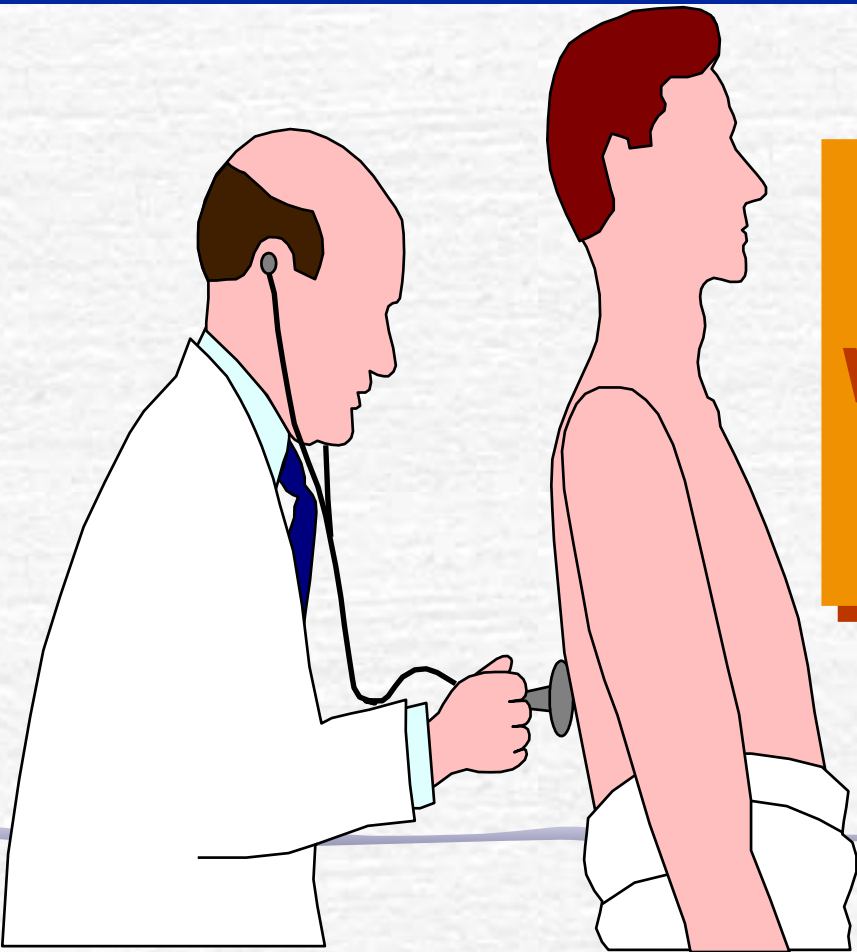
**WHILE NURSES WERE  
SUFFERING AND  
DYING THE MEDIA  
IMAGE OF WARTIME  
NURSES CREATED  
HIGHLY  
ROMANTICIZED AND  
SANITIZED REALITIES.**



# **VIETNAM WAR**

**(CONT)**

**YEARS BEFORE THE VA  
RECOGNIZED WOMEN  
WHO SERVED AS HAVING  
POST STRESS DISORDER  
SYMPTOMS**



# VIETNAM

## WAR

(cont.)  
(cont.)

### □ Public Law 90-130, 1967

Repealed the 2% ceilings on women's representation in the Armed Forces, increased the number of jobs women could hold and allowed them to be promoted to Flag rank

# POST VIETNAM ERA

**JUNE 1973  
END OF DRAFT**

# POST VIETNAM ERA



**JUNE 1973  
END OF DRAFT**

**VOLUNTEER  
FORCE**



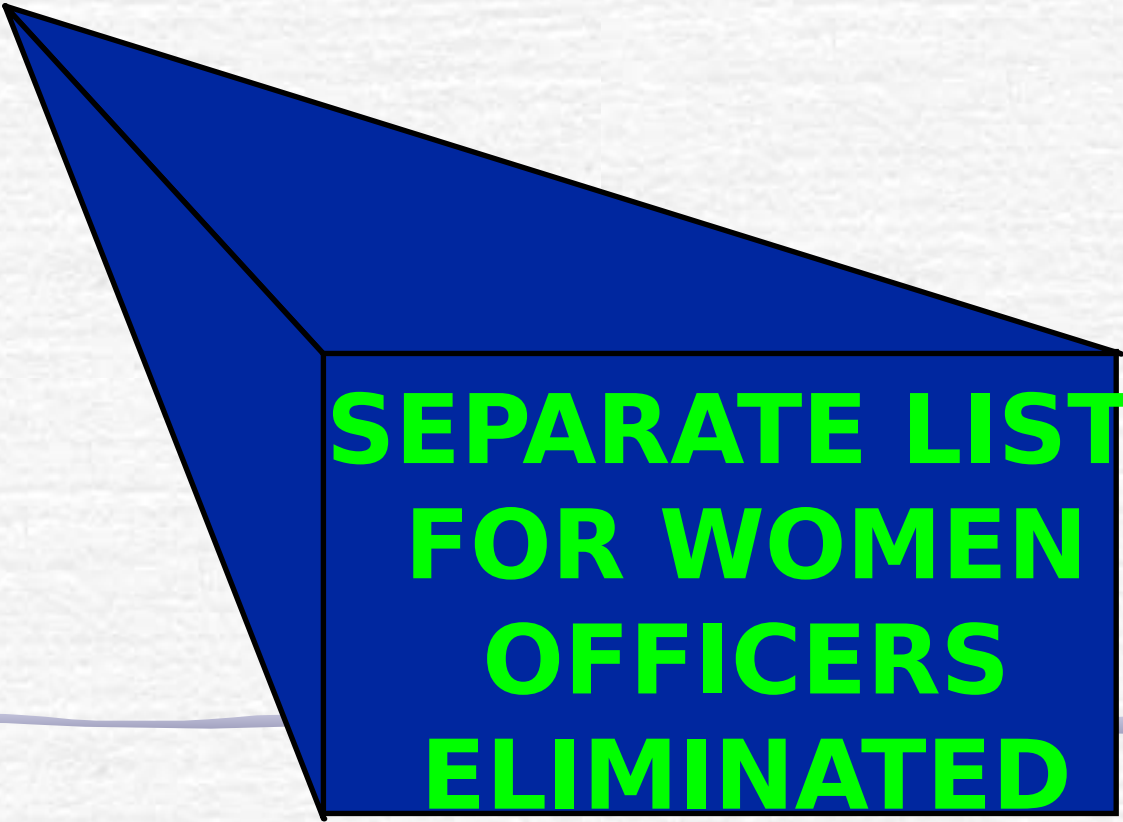
# POST VIETNAM ERA

**JUNE 1973  
END OF DRAFT**

**VOLUNTEER  
FORCE**

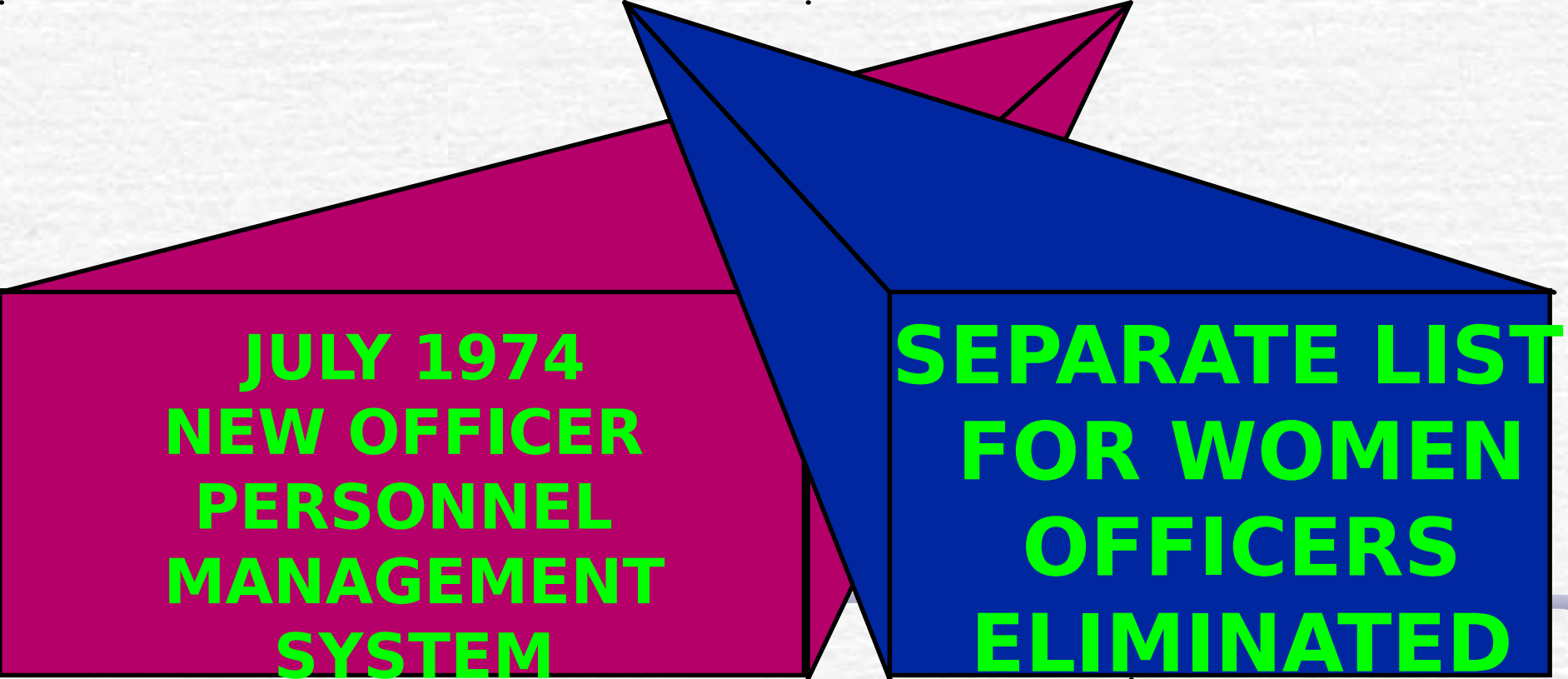
**WOMEN HELPED  
SUPPLY  
VOLUNTEERS**

# POST VIETNAM ERA



**SEPARATE LIST  
FOR WOMEN  
OFFICERS  
ELIMINATED**

# POST VIETNAM ERA



**JULY 1974  
NEW OFFICER  
PERSONNEL  
MANAGEMENT  
SYSTEM**

**SEPARATE LIST  
FOR WOMEN  
OFFICERS  
ELIMINATED**

# POST VIETNAM ERA

(cont)

1975



**WEAPONS  
TRAINING  
REACTIVATED**

# POST VIETNAM ERA

(cont)

1975



**WEAPONS  
TRAINING  
REACTIVATED**

1977



**SAME BASIC  
TRAINING AS  
MEN**

# POST VIETNAM ERA

(cont)

1975

**WEAPONS  
TRAINING  
REACTIVATED**

**INTEGRATED WITH  
MEN IN BASIC  
TRAINING**

1977

**SAME BASIC  
TRAINING AS  
MEN**

TO  
1978 1982

# **LAWS GOVERNING WOMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES**

**1948 ACT**

**W OMEN'S  
A RMED  
S ERVICE  
I NTEGRATION**



**PURPOSE  
DETERMINE THE  
STATUS OF WOMEN**

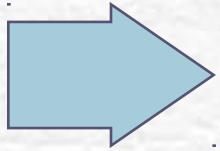
**HOW MANY WOULD  
BE ACCEPTED ?**



# **RECRUITMEN T AND ENTRY**

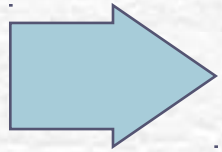
- **Women under 18 could not enlist and, if less than 21, were required to have consent of parent or guardian**

# **DEPENDENCY ENTITLEMENT**

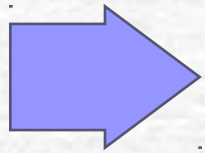


**HUSBANDS OF MILITARY WOMEN HAD  
TO PROVE DEPENDENCY**

# **DEPENDENCY ENTITLEMENT**



**HUSBANDS OF MILITARY WOMEN HAD  
TO PROVE DEPENDENCY**



**WOMEN WERE AUTOMATICALLY  
DISCHARGED IF PREGNANT OR IF  
ACQUIRED CHILDREN UNDER 18  
YEARS OF AGE**

# **STRENGTH**

# **CEILINGS**

**FEMALE OFFICERS COULD NOT EXCEED 10%  
OF THE TOTAL ENLISTED FEMALE STRENGTH**

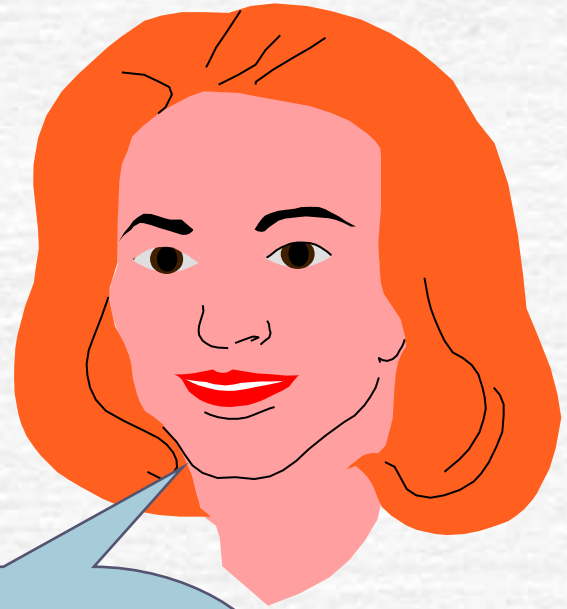
# STRENGTH CEILINGS

**FEMALE OFFICERS COULD NOT EXCEED 10%  
OF THE TOTAL ENLISTED FEMALE STRENGTH**

**ENLISTED WOMEN COULD NOT  
EXCEED 2% OF TOTAL ENLISTED  
STRENGTH**

# **CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

**S**



**NO WOMAN COULD SERVE  
IN COMMAND POSITIONS**

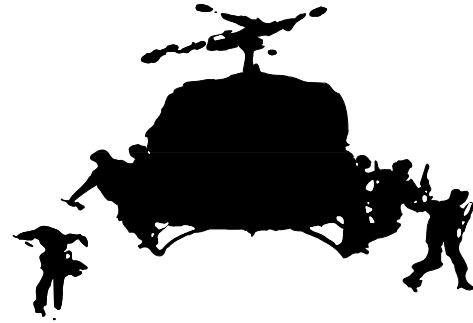
# CAREER OPPORTUNITIES



**COMMAND  
POSITIONS OPEN  
WERE MAINLY IN  
ADMINISTRATION  
AND MEDICAL  
FIELDS**



# COMBAT RESTRICTIO NS



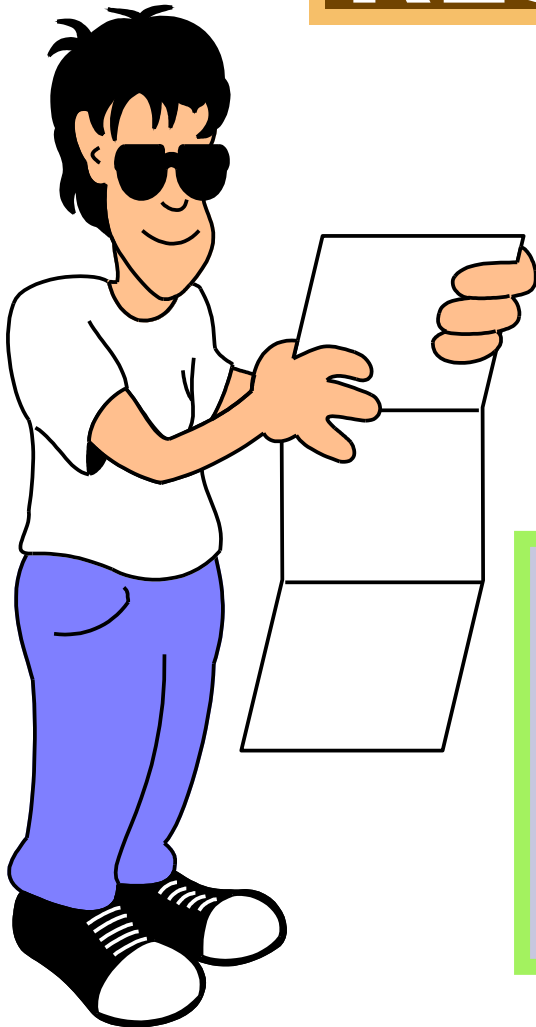
**Women's roles in combat were outlined in the law and modified in the U.S. Code**

# COMBAT RESTRICTIONS



**The Army had no statute prohibiting combat**

# COMBAT RESTRICTIONS



**SECRETARY OF THE ARMY  
GIVEN AUTHORITY TO  
ASSIGN TROOPS AS  
NEEDED**

# **CURRENT PROVISIONS OF WASIA**

- ☐ Men and women can enlist at 18 without parental consent**
- ☐ Benefits for male dependent equal to dependent women**
- ☐ Change in pregnancy policies**
- ☐ Single parents may remain in the military**

# **STRENGTH CEILINGS AND GRADE LIMITATIONS**

- ☐ **Service Secretaries can now set upper limits**
- ☐ **Future projections - 12% DOD wide**

# **CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

- ☐ **Women can and do now command both men and women**
- ☐ **Women are flying combat aircraft**
- ☐ **Women now serve in all but directly combat related jobs**

# SUMMARY

- **Status of women during WW I, WW II, Vietnam, and post Vietnam era**
- **Laws governing women in the military**
- **Contemporary issues**